LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A medium handling machine for handling a medium comprising:

a media insertion/delivering port for receiving and delivering the medium;

a shutter for opening or closing the media insertion/delivering port by being slid over an opening of the media insertion/delivering port;

a sensor mounted [[in]] inside the media insertion/delivering port in a position higher than a height of the medium, for sensing an object other than the medium;

a timer for ~~counting~~ measuring a time during which the shutter is opened; and

a control unit for causing the shutter to be slid to a position intermediate between a fully open position and a fully closed position when a ~~count of the timer~~ measured time has reached a predetermined value and the sensor senses the object.

2. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 1, wherein the control unit causes the shutter to be slid to the intermediate position once or a plurality of times.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 1, wherein the control unit causes the shutter to be closed when the sensor has not sensed the object.

5. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a stopper mounted to the media insertion/delivering port for stopping the shutter.

6. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 5, wherein the stopper stops the shutter from moving.

7. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a lamp mounted in the media insertion/

delivering port;

wherein the control unit causes the lamp to be turned on or flashed.

8. (Currently amended) A medium handling machine for handling a medium comprising:

a media insertion/delivering port for receiving and delivering the medium;

a sensor mounted [[in]] inside the media insertion/delivering port in a position higher than a height of the medium, for sensing a position of an object higher than a position of the medium received into the media insertion/delivering port;

a shutter provided to selectively cover an opening of the media insertion/delivering port, for opening or closing the media insertion/delivering port;

a timer for ~~counting~~ measuring a time during which the shutter is opened;

a lamp mounted in the media insertion/delivering port; and

a control unit for causing the lamp to be turned on or flashed when a ~~count of the timer~~ measured time has exceeded a predetermined value and the sensor senses the object.

9. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 8, wherein the lamp is turned on to blue or flashed when the shutter is opened, and turned on to red or flashed when the shutter starts being closed.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The medium handling machine according to claim 8, wherein the control unit causes the shutter to be closed when the sensor has not sensed the object.

12. (New) A machine for handling a medium, comprising:

an insertion/delivering port for receiving and delivering the medium;

a shutter for selectively opening and closing the port;

a sensor mounted in the port, for sensing presence of an object other than the medium inserted in the port;

a timer for timing a period during which the port is open; and

a control unit responsive to the sensor and the timer, configured for detecting a condition in which the sensor senses the object in the port when the period reaches a predetermined value, and responsive to the detecting of the condition, causing the shutter to move from a fully open position to a predetermined intermediate position between the fully open position and a fully closed position and to retract from the intermediate position without reaching the fully closed position.

13. (New) The machine of claim 12, wherein the control unit is configured to cause the shutter to move to the intermediate position without reaching the fully closed position a plurality of times in response to a single detection of the condition.

14. (New) The machine of claim 12, wherein the sensor is mounted inside the insertion/delivering port in a position higher than a height of the medium.

15. (New) The machine of claim 12, wherein the control unit is configured to cause the shutter to move to the fully closed position when the object is removed from the port at a time after the sliding of the shutter to the intermediate position without reaching the fully closed position.

16. (New) The machine of claim 12, further comprising:

a position sensor, for detecting when the shutter reaches the intermediate position,

wherein the control unit is configured to initiate movement of the shutter from the fully open position toward the predetermined intermediate position upon detection of the condition and to initiate retracting of the shutter when the position sensor detects that the shutter has reached the intermediate position.